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Guidance Regarding the Location of Dressing Rooms near the Diagnostic Radiographic (X-ray) Room in a Freestanding Emergency Medical Care (FEMC) Facility

DSHS has received questions regarding Title 25, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 131, §131.143(d) (7) relating to construction requirements for a new FEMC facility. This guidance provides clarification regarding the acceptable location of a dressing room to an X-ray room in a FEMC facility.

Specifically, the licensing rule at §131.143(d) (7) states: “Diagnostic radiographic (X-ray). A diagnostic radiographic (X-ray) room shall be provided and be readily available to the emergency suite. The diagnostic radiographic (X-ray) room size shall be in compliance with the manufacturer's recommendations. Clearance and unobstructed space shall not be less than three feet around the diagnostic equipment. Dressing room(s) shall be provided and located near the X-ray room.”

A FEMC facility will be determined to be in compliance with this rule provided that a private area exists for a patient to change or remove clothing, secure personal belongings, and a patient's privacy and dignity can be maintained when leaving a dressing room to go to a diagnostic radiographic (X-ray) room. The dressing room or changing area may or may not be in an exam room, as determined by the facility, as long as the proximity of the changing area to the X-ray room is maintained in a manner that protects a patient from exposure to others, and the patient can maintain privacy and dignity at all times.

If you have further questions regarding this matter, please contact Derek Jakovich, Patient Quality Care Unit Manager, at (512) 834-6700 x 2374 or via e-mail at Derek.Jakovich@dshs.state.tx.us